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No. 9

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, January 13, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 11, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE BOST to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

ISSUES FACING AMERICAN FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, the American people expect Congress to

address the issues they care about, kitchen table issues like being able to afford prescription drugs or get a good-paying job and addressing the gun violence that is plaguing our neighborhoods.

But instead of getting to work for the American people, House Republicans, held hostage by MAGA extremists, spent their first week engaging in power struggles and brawls and political stunts. Instead of lowering costs for American families, they voted to help wealthy tax cheats and greedy corporations avoid paying their fair share of taxes, a move that would raise the Federal deficit by over \$100 billion.

Instead of creating better-paying jobs, they launched a new committee to chase down conspiracy theories and settle scores for the disgraced, twice-impeached former President.

Instead of working to make our communities safer, they doubled down on their crusade to criminalize women's healthcare and end reproductive rights across this country. The party that once claimed to stand for family values has no interest in solving the most pressing issues facing American families.

I am disappointed but never discouraged.

No matter what political stunts House Republicans pull, my colleagues and I will remain focused on delivering for the people we represent. We will keep working to create better-paying jobs and opportunities for our children, to lower costs for families, and to make our communities safer.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE IS NEVER THE ANSWER

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, as political violence rises in our country and abroad, our Nation's leaders should be united in condemning political violence in all forms, as well as the vile rhetoric that fuels it.

From Charlottesville to Pittsburgh to El Paso, we have seen the tragic results when lies spill blood and words echo as gunshots. These attacks ripple through communities stealing innocent lives, traumatizing survivors, and inflicting pain on those left behind.

The underlying drivers of domestic violent extremism, antigovernment sentiment, racism, misogyny, and anti-Semitism are constant as threats and attacks move from one community to the next.

We all have a moral responsibility to combat this scourge of hateful rhetoric, to ensure that every American can live free from bigoted speech and hate-fueled violence.

But the resolution presented by Republicans today continues that pattern of stoking grievances and chaos in our communities rather than helping our communities work together to ensure domestic tranquility.

Their resolution is far from a clean condemnation of political violence. By condemning only vandalism and violence against anti-abortion facilities, it gives tacit approval to the far more frequent attacks against abortion clinics and other medical centers disfavored by the radical right.

Political violence is never the answer.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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I look forward to working with our colleagues across the aisle when they are ready to take seriously the very real threat of political violence, condemning such violence in all forms, rather than using this issue to stir up more division, chaos, and ultimately more violence.

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IS IN DIRE STRAITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, our postsecondary education system is in dire straits. Reforms are more necessary now than ever.

To start with, income-driven repayment plans have left millions of borrowers trapped under a mountain of interest. Many of these borrowers have done everything right.

They have been faithful to make their monthly payments, yet years later find they have made little to no progress on their principal. This can be extremely frustrating, especially for those who realize they have already paid back the original cost of the loan. This is the kind of problem that needs to be fixed.

It is critical that we address the structural problems that plague our postsecondary education financing system for the students of tomorrow, but it is also crucial that we address the problems it has caused for the students who have already been harmed today.

That is why House Republicans put in the work and offered a solution that fixes this broken system. That solution begins with the REAL Reforms Act.

This legislation protects the interests of students and taxpayers by providing targeted relief for borrowers currently struggling while implementing lasting reforms to ensure it doesn't happen to future borrowers.

This legislation also implements reforms to simplify the number of repayment options and caps unlimited graduate lending while ensuring college remains accessible and affordable to all Americans, regardless of their financial circumstances.

It also saves taxpayers billions by eliminating runaway forgiveness programs that disproportionately benefit wealthier households.

Together, these reforms will lower the cost of college for students, families, and taxpayers.

In contrast, President Biden's radical student loan bailout will exacerbate tuition inflation while encouraging students to go deeper into debt.

Blanket loan cancellation to the tune of \$400 billion and enacting retroactive free college by expanding what were intended to be limited safety nets is fiscally irresponsible and morally indefensible.

Republicans and Democrats agree on the problems, and we must come together to work toward a solution.

For example, everyone agrees that postsecondary education should provide students and taxpayers a positive return on investment.

There is bipartisan consensus that the cost of nonrepayment can no longer fall squarely on taxpayers.

For far too long, colleges have been more focused on getting students in the door and have paid little mind to what happens once they are there or once they leave.

Again, there is bipartisan consensus that this too needs to change. It is time for Congress to come together and fix the mess created by these failed policies.

My Republican colleagues and I stand ready to work with the President and congressional Democrats to do so.

REPUBLICANS STAND FOR LIFE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans remain undeterred in our mission to protect the sanctity of human life and the rights of the unborn.

Today, we will pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act and H. Con. Res. 3, which condemns violence against pro-life institutions and groups. By passing these two pieces of legislation, we are fulfilling the commitment we made to the American people to preserve a future that is built on freedom.

Over the last 2 years, the American people witnessed unprecedented attacks both on the unborn and those who stand for life. Today, we are turning that tide. House Republicans are sending a unified message to the entire country and the world: Our new House majority stands for life.

WATER AND DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN CALIFORNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the devastating impacts of droughts and floods that have been exacerbated in part by climate change in California but also around the country and around the world.

California is being battered with major storms bringing flooding and high winds across our State. Normally, we need the water but not quite at this level and at this measure.

We need to be taking advantage of the heavy precipitation to shore up our water supplies, to fill our State's critical reservoirs, and recharge our aquifers that have been depleted not only over decades but the last 3 years as a result of extreme drought.

The fact is, California gets most of its moisture, unlike parts of the country, from November to March. If we don't get it then, we don't get it at all.

The acceleration of the cycle of droughts and floods caused by climate change and more demands in California's water system, more people, more needs, have made it more difficult for

farmers to put food on America's dinner table. I know. I am a third-generation farmer.

Now, the ongoing storms and floods threaten to damage our crops. California's San Joaquin Valley, which I represent a part of, grows nearly a quarter of the United States' food and has been bearing the brunt of it all.

Since 2019, farmland in California has shrunk by 10 percent, resulting in over 750,000 acres of fallowed land. Nearly 12,000 agriculture jobs were lost statewide, representing a 2.8 percent decline. A total of 1.3 million acres were left unplanted compared to 2019, most of it within the San Joaquin Valley. Sadly, we see that example here. And the surface water deliveries in the valley were cut by nearly 43 percent; a complex State and Federal water system. Zero percent were to agricultural allocations. You can't grow food without water.

Our farmers feed the world, and they can't do that without a reliable water supply. Forty-four percent of California's agriculture is exported.

Last year, Congress enacted the bipartisan infrastructure law, the largest infrastructure investment since the Eisenhower administration. These projects must be accelerated to develop additional water storage and to expand access to water for farmers in the valley and throughout the State.

In these efforts, we secured \$1.15 billion for western agriculture water storage, an important first step; \$25 million for the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Authority, which increases 130,000 acre-feet of additional water storage; \$30 million for Sites Reservoir to pursue off-stream storage that will provide 1.5 million acre-feet of water; \$82 million for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir that will expand another 115,000 acre-feet of additional storage; and \$15 million to construct the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir, another 82,000 acre-feet of off-stream storage.

If all of those would be in place today, that would be an additional 2 million acre-feet of additional water supply for California during these flood times. Unfortunately, these projects are not built. We must get about that business.

These investments, along with the ongoing Friant-Kern Canal construction already underway, show that we can and will improve our water system to sustain our future with climate change and other factors.

For decades, sadly, we did not make these investments, and we need to do so to protect our communities and farmland against extreme weather events for our country and for the world.

Water will rival energy in the next 10 years as to whether or not nation-states can live together amicably. It is critical.

Finally, we took a large step by investing in this bipartisan infrastructure. But the flooding that we see here obviously is our current, ongoing problem. Our Federal agencies must work